

INSERT DATE HERE

Dear Superintendent or Principal:

Thank you for volunteering to have the drinking water at your school tested for lead and for complying with the recent recommendations of the Rhode Island General Assembly. Your water samples have been analyzed by a state-certified lab, and we are now sharing the results with you.

***Water Sample Test Results, INSERT SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME HERE***

<b>School Name</b>	<b>Sample location</b>	<b>Test result (parts per billion or ppb)</b>

**Understanding Test Results**

- Any sample that had a result of higher than 15 ppb is above the action level set by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We urge you to follow the *Strongly Recommended Actions* included with this letter.
- Any sample that had a result between 1 and 15 ppb is below the action level set by the EPA; however, we urge you to follow the *Suggested Actions* included with this letter, especially if water from this faucet or drinking fountain is used by young children.
- Any sample that had a result of less than 1 ppb is below the detection level for lead. We urge you to follow the *Routine Prevention and Control Actions* included with this letter.

As a reminder, results of all water testing conducted as part of this project will be posted on the Department of Health's (RIDOH) website ([www.health.ri.gov/programs/detail.php?pgm\\_id=126/](http://www.health.ri.gov/programs/detail.php?pgm_id=126/)) after you receive this letter. In addition, RIDOH is required to share all results with the General Assembly no later than April 30.

For your convenience, we have also included a sample letter that can be adapted and used to inform parents and community members of your school's water test results.

Should you have any questions regarding the test results, please feel free to contact our colleague at URI's Cooperative Extension, Elizabeth Herron, at 401-874-4552 or [eherron@uri.edu](mailto:eherron@uri.edu). You can also contact the Department of Health's Center for Drinking Water Quality at 401-222-5960.

Sincerely,

June Swallow, PE  
Chief, Center for Drinking Water Quality

## ***Strongly Recommended Actions***

**(For water samples with results higher than 15 ppb)**

- Do not allow water faucet or drinking fountain to be used for drinking water.
- Post a *Do Not Use* sign on the faucet or drinking fountain, or remove it completely.
- Conduct follow-up testing *after* all of the *Suggested Actions* have been completed.

## ***Suggested Actions***

**(For water samples with results of 1-15 ppb)**

- Refer to EPA's *3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools* that includes information on assessing plumbing and implementing control measures to reduce elevated lead levels. It can be found online at [http://web.uri.edu/nemo/files/toolkit\\_leadschools\\_guide\\_3ts\\_leadschool.pdf](http://web.uri.edu/nemo/files/toolkit_leadschools_guide_3ts_leadschool.pdf)
- Flush the pipes to the faucet or drinking fountain each morning before students arrive. Flushing the pipes will get rid of water that has been in the pipes overnight.
  - Water fountains without refrigeration and water faucets should be run for 30 second to one minute until the water is noticeably colder.
  - Water fountains with refrigeration should be run for 15 minutes.
- Remove and clean, or replace, faucet aerators.
- Consider replacing faucets or water fountains with a lead-free, NSF-approved fixture.

## ***Routine Prevention and Control Actions***

- Create and implement aerator cleaning schedules for all water faucets so that debris can be removed.
- Use only cold water for food preparation and drinking. Hot water dissolves lead faster than cold water.
- Flush faucets and drinking fountains regularly, especially after weekends, vacations, or long periods of inactivity.
- Post signs in bathrooms that water from the sink faucets should not be used for drinking water. Put both words and pictures on signs.
- If lead is detected in your water, consider testing *all* faucets and drinking fountains on a regular basis.

## **Additional Resources**

- <http://web.uri.edu/nemo/lead-in-water>